

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
 Wilhelm Schwaeble et al.) Group Art Unit (not assigned)
 Serial No. 09/316,163)
 Filed May 21, 1999)
) INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
) STATEMENT PURSUANT
) TO 37 CFR §§1.97 AND 1.98



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
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Sir:

Applicants submit herewith Form PTO-1449, "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT," and a copy of each reference listed therein. These documents were cited both in the International Search Report from the corresponding PCT application and in the Search Report prepared by the British Patent Office in the corresponding British application.

Because this Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this National application, no fee is necessary.

Applicants are submitting this art because they recognize their duty to disclose pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. However, submission of this art and Statement is not an admission that any item identified contains matter that anticipates the invention or that renders the invention obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Further, Applicants believe that none of the art submitted herewith, alone or in proper combination, discloses, teaches or suggests the invention claimed by Applicants.

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The citation of a reference is also without admission that the reference is sufficient to teach one of ordinary skill in the art how to make or use the subject matter thereof or that the reference is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b).

Moreover, submission of these references is without admission that any of the references constitute statutory prior art or has an effective date prior to Applicants' effective date of invention.

Applicants specifically reserve all rights of privilege and confidence with respect to this matter. A submission of this document is not to be construed as a waiver of those rights. In addition, the filing of this Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search had been made by Applicants or Applicants' attorneys.

Please charge any fees associated with this communication to our Deposit Account No. 23-0280.

Respectfully submitted,



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